

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me. I look forward to the reduction in channel duplication that will allow both companies to carry more channel offerings from various local or overseas markets.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which are available from DirectTV currently for my home.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

Unfortunately, The local cable operators do not allow me to receive the local channels from my satellite provider. In order for me to receive their broadband internet services, I have have to purchase basic cable from their organization. I feel that this is an unfair tactic to strong arm consumers into choosing cable over satellite TV.

I appreciate your consideration of my views and respectfully request that this merger be accepted. This will ultimately only benefit me the consumer with additional choices other than the one cable company I get to choose from today.

Sincerely,

Christopher Griffin
1502 Mexican Heather Ct.
Pflugerville, TX 78660